

# NEW ZEALAND

## Flowers and Birds



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**SOME BETTER KNOWN**  
**NEW ZEALAND**  
**WILD FLOWERS**  
**and BIRDS**



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**GOVERNMENT**

**DEPARTMENT of TOURIST and PUBLICITY**

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*Clematis and Kowhai*  
A Cluster of New Zealand Wild Flowers



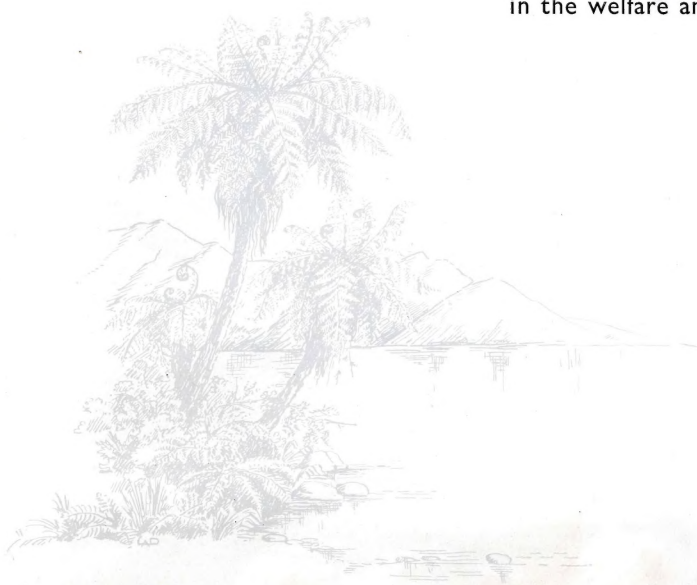
# Introduction

The flowers and birds of New Zealand are composed of such a wide and fascinating range of varieties and species, that several volumes would be needed to do justice to either subject. In the present instance only a few of the better known have been dealt with, selected from those likely to be seen during a tour of the Dominion. The majority are indigenous to both Islands, including Stewart Island in the far south.

Among the flowers are some of the most beautiful varieties known to the world, such as the Golden Kowhai, the glorious blossoms of which spread a glowing mantle on the shores of Lake Taupo in springtime. Along the northern coasts the crimson Pohutukawa turns headlands and bays aflame during the Christmas period, while further south the Rata bloom paints miles of forest with its rich scarlet. With many wild flower lovers the delicate waxen clusters of the bush Clematis hold first place. Indeed it would be difficult to imagine anything more beautiful than the great masses of these starry blossoms covering the tree tops. Everyone can become familiar with the dainty Manuka flower which burgeons forth over hill and valley in wide profusion, filling the air with its sweet scent, while Lacebark, Flax and Tree Fuchsia are wayside flowers that all may admire in season.

Of the native birds, possibly the Tui and the Bellbird will be most readily met with as they inhabit nearly every forest area in the Dominion, making the leafy aisles ring with the sweet melody of their voices. The dainty and friendly Fantail, the cheerful, jaunty Kingfisher, and the brilliant plumaged Pukeko are also common enough to be seen in most districts. The wild Pigeon, one of the finest of its species in existence, and the noisy Kaka with its equally lively cousin the Kea, can be seen and admired in their proper habitat in forest and mountain country, while the beautiful Banded Rail and the inquisitive Woodhen add charm and liveliness to the scene wherever encountered.

To the many thousands of Nature lovers who visit these shores, and to New Zealanders also, it is hoped that this book will help to create a greater interest in the welfare and preservation of the unique flora and fauna of the Dominion.

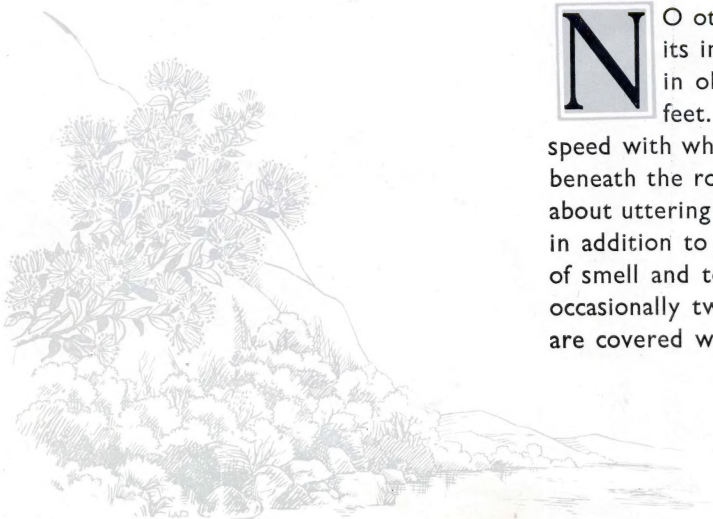




## Kiwi

*Kiwis differ from all other birds in that they have no tail, the merest trace of wings, and their nostrils are placed near the tip of the bill instead of near the base.*

**N**O other bird lays an egg so large in proportion to its size. In spite of its inability to fly the Kiwi had, in primeval New Zealand, no difficulty in obtaining a living, because it made full use of its wonderful bill and feet. It is in some measure compensated for the loss of flight by the speed with which it can run. In the daytime it usually hides in a hole or burrow beneath the roots of a tree or in a hollow log, but once dusk falls it moves freely about uttering the shrill call which has given it the name Kiwi. The tip of the bill, in addition to bearing the nostrils, is very sensitive to touch, and a combination of smell and touch seems to be used for locating food. Usually one egg is laid, occasionally two, and the male carries out the duties of incubation. The chicks are covered with soft, fluffy, dark brown plumage.





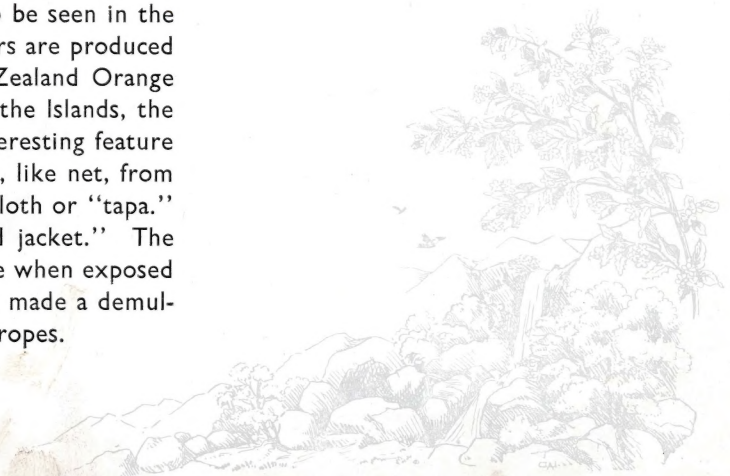
## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

### *Houhere*

*This plant is also known in different districts by the other Maori names of Houi and Whauwhi.*



**T**HE HOUHERE, which blooms in the Autumn, varies in height from 10 feet to 45 feet, and is one of the most beautiful trees to be seen in the native bush. The masses of exquisite, snow-white flowers are produced in clusters, and have earned for it the name of New Zealand Orange Blossom. There are several species growing in different parts of the Islands, the flowers and leaves of which vary in size and shape. The most interesting feature of this tree is the bark, which is composed of layers of laced fibre, like net, from which the natives of Taranaki in former days made a kind of bark cloth or "tapa." Because of this the settlers named it "lace-bark" and "thousand jacket." The timber is white and very tough, but, owing to its perishable nature when exposed to the weather, it is unserviceable for outdoor use. The Maoris made a demulcent drink from the bark which was also used in place of cords or ropes.





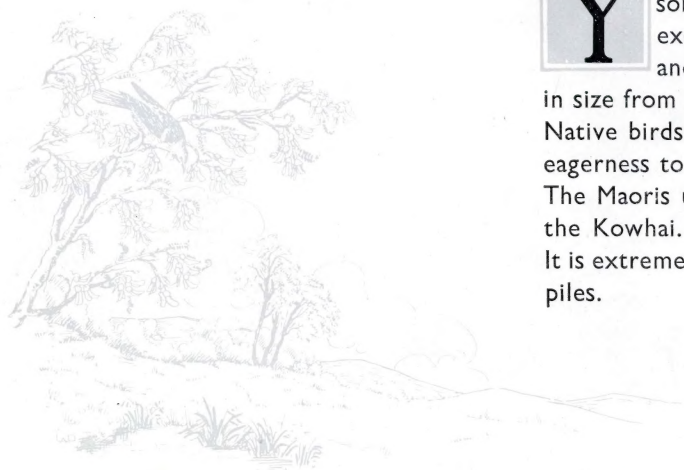
## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST



### *Kowhai*

The word "kowhai" is said to mean "yellow," while the plant is sometimes called the New Zealand Laburnum.

**Y**ELLOWY-GOLDEN flowers hanging in clusters from the brown branches, some absolutely devoid of foliage, others with leaves uncurling like the exquisite fronds of some golden-green fern, such is the eye-arresting and beautiful sight the Kowhai presents in the early Spring. It varies in size from a shrub to a tree sometimes as high as 40 feet, and blooms profusely. Native birds are extremely fond of the nectar hidden in the flowers, and in their eagerness to obtain it the Tuis tear open the beautiful blossoms with their beaks. The Maoris used to time the season for their potato planting by the flowering of the Kowhai. The heart wood is red, and is used for cabinet work and turnery. It is extremely durable, and for that reason it is utilized for house blocks and fencing piles.





## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

### *Kaka's Beak*

The Maori name for it is Kowhai-Ngutu-Kaka, meaning "parrot-beaked kowhai," but it is more familiarly known as the "Red Kowhai."



**D**AINTY blooms of brilliant scarlet, set off by dark foliage, make the Kaka's Beak one of the most beautiful of our flowering shrubs. The gorgeous blossoms droop in long racemes and are shaded by the overhanging glossy leaves. The natives, evidently, must have cultivated it in former times for its beauty, as the plant is to be found mostly on the sites of the old native pahs. Although very rare in its wild state, it is still to be seen near Lake Waikaremoana and Great Barrier Island. In 1831 some plants were introduced into England when they were readily bought at £5 each. It is described as a drooping shrub, growing sometimes to a height of 5 feet or 6 feet, and is widely cultivated, as is also a white variety which, although beautiful, is not so attractive as the crimson plant.





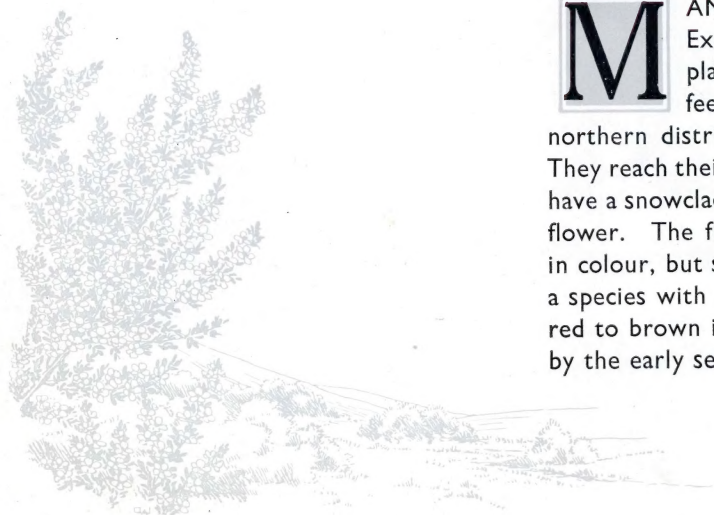
## FLOWERS OF THE LOWLANDS



### *Manuka*

*This beautiful little shrub is one of the best known and widely distributed of New Zealand plants.*

**M**ANUKA is to be seen on the seashore, hillsides, and rocky cliffs. Exposed to the winds on mountain sides, it becomes almost a cushion plant, while in more protected situations it will grow to a tree of 25 feet or more. It commences to bloom in November, but in the northern districts it is not difficult to find plants flowering all the year round. They reach their greatest luxuriance about Christmas time when valleys and hillsides have a snowclad appearance. Young plants less than an inch high will bear a single flower. The flowers are extremely delicate and dainty. They are usually white in colour, but some specimens are slightly rosy towards the centre. There is also a species with a crimson flower. The capsule is hard and woody and varies from red to brown in colour. The Manuka is highly aromatic and its leaves were used by the early settlers in place of tea, so that to them it was known as the tea-tree.



## Rata

The New Zealand native bush is relieved by the bright red of the Rata, which presents a glorious sight in the forests of the main divide in the South Island.



**R**ATA VINE is one of the most noteworthy of our forest climbers, forcing its way by the tallest trees with a stem six inches in diameter. Rata is the name given to several different species of this plant by the Maoris and bushmen. A liquid, not unlike cider, can be made from the wood when a cut is made in the stem. The bark was used by the Maoris for healing purposes, and they believed it should be taken from the side of the tree which caught the rays of the rising sun. The species is often confused with the *M. robusta*, a truly remarkable plant, which usually starts life as an epiphite, a plant growing upon another, but not nourished by it. As it becomes larger it sends aerial roots to the ground which grow together in places, and by degrees surround the supporting tree, which is finally crushed.



## *Pohutukawa*

*Pohutukawa, flowering in December or January, is often called the Christmas Tree by settlers, who use it for decorations at that festival in place of the holly of the Homeland.*

**T**HE tree, a very handsome one, grows to the height of 60 feet or more, the trunk being comparatively short with wide spread branches. It seldom grows far from the sea-coast, often clinging to the cliff, with its fibrous roots firmly fixed to the rocky face. Its brilliant flowers and spreading twisted branches make the sheltered inlets and rugged coast-line a sight not easily forgotten. To the Maoris the Pohutukawa has a weird significance, for they believed that the departed spirits travelled along the mountain ranges until they reached Cape Reinga, a stretch of rocks in the extreme north. Here there grew an enormous Pohutukawa overhanging the sea, to which the departing spirits clung before descending to the under world. The wood of the Pohutukawa is of a deep reddish colour, very dense and heavy, and of great strength and durability. The buds are white and woolly, as are the branchlets and under surfaces of the leaves.



## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

### Clematis

"Pua-wananga," meaning a sanctified flower, is the Maori name given to the *Clematis indivisa*.



**T**HE CLEMATIS is a climber, and one of the most beautiful and best known throughout New Zealand of the bush flowers. The star-like blossoms are produced in immense quantities and festoon the edges of the forest and the tops of tall trees with delicate snowy garlands in the early Spring. The leaf stems, being highly sensitive, coil round any twig they come in contact with and so draw the plant up to the sun and air. The flowers are almost unisexual (of one sex only) some having pistillate and others staminate flowers. They have no petals, the white sepals acting as an attraction to the insects they depend upon for pollination. The seeds, each with a long silky plume formed into feathery clusters, are as lovely in their way as the flowers themselves. When matured, they separate and are carried to a distance by the wind. *Clematis hexasepala* (six sepaled) is a smaller variety worn by Maori girls on festive occasions.





## FLOWERS OF THE SNOWLANDS



### *Celmisia*

*There are as many as 60 different varieties of this plant, practically all peculiar to New Zealand.*

**S**OME of the most beautiful sub-alpine plants to be seen, perhaps in any country, are found on the mountains of the North and South Islands. Apart from a few yellow blossoms most of the flowers are white. Conspicuous amongst them are the Celmisias, or Mountain Daisies as they are sometimes called. Most of the species are sub-alpine plants, but the one depicted here is found in all parts, from the seacoast to the height of 5,000 feet. The beautiful daisy-like flowers appear in November and December. Various methods of leaf construction have been adapted by different species of Mountain Daisy to prevent undue loss of water by transpiration. The result is that they are probably the most profuse and beautiful of our alpine flora. The leaves are usually covered with a tomentum or down of various colours; buff, gold, brown, and many silvery in hue. Often the mid-rib is of an entirely different shade.

## Mountain Lily

Known also as the Shepherd's and Mt. Cook Lily, this flower, which belongs to the buttercup family, is not really a lily at all.



**T**HE MOUNTAIN LILY is native to the mountainous districts of the South Island, along the Milford Track, near Mount Cook, and in Otago at altitudes of from two to four thousand feet. It is seen to greatest perfection along the shady banks of mountain streams and in moist hollows sheltered by sub-alpine shrub. It is not possible to do justice to the wonderful beauty and growth of this plant. The flowers are like anemone blossoms—a pure glistening white—and measure sometimes four inches in diameter, forming a beautiful contrast to the waxy green leaves which, in mature specimens, are saucer-shaped, some nearly half-a-yard across. The Mountain Lily is a true alpine plant, requiring the greatest possible sub-warmth during the summer and excessive cold in the winter. It is perhaps the largest and most beautiful ranunculus in the world, bearing as many as 50 blossoms at a time.



FLOWERS OF THE LOWLANDS

### *N. Z. Flax*

The flowers, which appear from November to January, are dull red or yellow in colour and contain a quantity of honey which attracts birds, especially the Tuis and Parrots.

**Q**UITE unlike the European Flax, which is small with fragile pale blue flowers, the New Zealand Flax, or Harakeke as it is known to the Maoris, is one of the most important plants of this country. The leaves are dark green, very coarse and rigid, and are often more than six feet in length. The leaf fibre is exceedingly strong, and much of it is now exported for the manufacture of ropes, etc. The Maoris made mats and baskets, cloaks and capes from it. For such wearing apparel they carefully hand-dressed, bleached, and often dyed the fibre, which was then beaten with a smooth implement to render it soft and pliable. The actual weaving was a very tedious process, a fine cloak sometimes taking many months to complete. In former times the better kinds of flax were cultivated outside the native villages.





## FLOWERS OF THE LOWLANDS

### Tree Fuchsia

The Maoris call this plant Kotukutuku or Kohutuhutu, while the blackish coloured fruit, so eagerly eaten by the birds, is named Konini.



**T**HE TREE FUCHSIA, which is named after Fuchs, a German physician, is found all over New Zealand up to an elevation of 3,000 feet. It flowers in the Spring and is not particularly conspicuous in the bush. But when a branch is cut and taken into the full light, it shows such a range of colours and differences of texture that it at once interests and delights the observer. The waxy buds, pale green in their first stage, become streaked with dark purple, while, as the flowers burst, they turn to scarlet and crimson. The pollen, instead of the usual yellow, is a wonderful blue and is very viscous. The leaves of most of the New Zealand trees are dark green and leathery, but those of the Fuchsia are pale and soft. The undersides are silvery, tinged with delicate green or pink. The bark of the older trees peels off in papery layers.





## FLOWERS OF THE SNOWLANDS



### *Edelweiss*

This plant is so named on account of its resemblance to the well-known Swiss flower.

**N**EW ZEALAND possesses such wonderful ranges of mountains, especially in the South Island, that she has naturally a very great variety of alpine flowers. Amongst them one finds New Zealand Edelweiss. It is common on the Southern Alps, where it has been seen growing at an altitude of 2,000 feet, while in the Mount Cook district it has been found at a height of 5,500 feet. Edelweiss is essentially a rock plant, and it is seen to best advantage when growing in large masses on ledges and slopes. The clumps of flannel-like flowers, with their fascinating silvery foliage, are thrown into strong relief by the dark rugged background of rock. The flowering period is from January to March. Another kind of Edelweiss, *Leucogenes leontopodium*, is found in the North Island, and has a rather larger flower than that of the one in the South.

## Tui

The Tui was known to the early colonists as the "Parson Bird" in allusion to the peculiar tufts of white feathers that adorn its throat, and their fancied resemblance to the clerical bands.



**T**HIS bird, our most remarkable songster, has an amazing variety of notes and a versatile manner of delivery, singing earliest in the morning and latest at night of all the bush birds. In addition to having a beautiful glossy plumage, the Tui is noted throughout the land for its extreme rapidity of movement and its general air of bustle, happiness, and gaiety. The tongue of this gay and courageous bird is furnished at the tip with a brush of exquisite fineness, which enables it to gather the nectar from Rata, Kowhai, and other honey-producing flowers. Insects caught on the wing and berries supplement the diet. The nest is placed in the fork of a brushy shrub or among the leafy tops of a forest tree. The eggs are variable in form and colour but usually white, with a faint rosy blush and lightly freckled all over with pale reddish-brown or marbled with rust-red veins.



## Bellbird

*The song of the Bellbird is similar to that of the Tui, but richer and more varied, and includes a number of deep notes which resemble the distant chiming of small bells.*

**A**LTHOUGH difficult to see in the bush because the colour of the feathers harmonizes so completely with the background, they are readily seen on the wing. One of our most shapely birds, the soft slender lines, the long tail, the undulating but rapid flight are characteristic. In winter it feeds largely on insects found on the trunks and branches of various trees. Berries are also eaten, and their fondness for nectar enables birdlovers to attract Bellbirds by exposing coloured tins of sweetened water. Both sexes work at nest-building, and three or four eggs are laid. The young are fed by the parents long after they are full-fledged. Because the Silvereye (the small bird above) was self-introduced, it is classed as a native bird. That it was not previously known to the Maoris is shown by their names for it—tauhou (stranger), Kanohi-mowhiti (spectacle-eye), etc. The white ring round the eye consists of feathers.



## Fantail

*Species of the Flycatcher family similar to the Fantail are found in many parts of the world, some in Australia being closely related to the New Zealand bird.*



**T**HE special prey of the Fantail are small flying insects such as gnats, midges, and sandflies. Its long tail is primarily useful in enabling it to twist and turn quickly when in pursuit, for the Fantail almost invariably feeds when on the wing. Common all over New Zealand, conspicuous in appearance, and fearless of man, there is probably no bird better known than the Fantail. Changed conditions, brought about by settlement, have fortunately not disturbed this native bird very much. Always favouring open spaces at the edge of the bush and well-lighted clearings, the Fantail has taken kindly enough to shrubberies and shelter belts. It will even enter open doors and windows of human dwellings to hunt houseflies, chirping in friendly conversation with the owners as it does so. Nesting begins about August, both birds taking part in building; three eggs, pale cream speckled lightly with greyish-brown, are laid.



## Parrakeets

*Parrakeets are confined largely to heavy bush, seldom venturing into the open country. They congregate in small flocks which move rapidly about with continual chattering.*

**A**T one time Parrakeets were among our best known birds. Because of failure of food supplies in the bush in bad seasons, enormous numbers invaded the farms and orchards where they ate fruit and ripening grain. Every possible method of extermination was used against them, and they perished in such numbers that they have never been so common again. The habit of gliding when flying down gullies shows off the resplendent plumage to great advantage. Parrakeets do not possess any really musical sounds, but they keep up an incessant chuckling. They feed largely on berries and the seeds of plants. To see them perched on flax stalks nibbling the pods and extracting the seeds is a beautiful sight. The nest is usually made in a hole in a dead tree or high up in inaccessible cliffs, and the number of eggs average about five. The young, when being fed, make "delighted, little, guzzling sounds."

## Pigeon

*The Pigeon has no song, but its beautiful plumage, tameness, and usefulness as a seed distributor make it one of New Zealand's most valued birds.*



**A**T one time the Pigeon was exceedingly abundant, but it has suffered much at the hands of men and of vermin. Even now it shows so little fear of man that it may be closely approached. It will learn no caution, and presents its fair white breast as an irresistible target to anyone with a gun. Luckily no species responds more readily to protection, and, with the abolition of guns on forestry and scenic reserves, the Pigeon is bound to increase. It is one of the finest pigeons in the world as regards size, beauty of plumage, and strength of flight. This bird can fly considerable distances in search of berries, which helps it to survive when the crop in any one district fails. A single egg is laid, and the parents take great care of the young. The chick is at first fed on a milky secretion from the lining of the crop of the adult, but gradually berries are given in a less and less digested form.



## *Kaka*

*Sprightly, social, noisy, the Kaka is one of the most interesting, and, at the same time, most useful inhabitants of the bush.*

**F**EW birds are so perfectly adapted to living and feeding entirely in the forest as the Kaka. The peculiar formation of its feet enables it to climb with remarkable agility. Disturb it, and it will hop among the branches with great dexterity, using its beak and wings to assist its awkward but none the less rapid progress. Once above the bush, it can fly well with a gay soaring and gliding which shows off its beautiful plumage. The Kaka's food consists mainly of grubs and insects which its powerful bill digs out of the ground and rotten logs and dead standing trees. Fruits and the nectar of flowers also form part of its food. The nest, which is difficult to find, is concealed in a hollow tree. Four white eggs are laid on a thick layer of dry wood powder, but as a rule only two chicks are reared. These are attended devotedly by the parents.



## Kea

*The haunts of the Kea, or Mountain Parrot, are the high, precipitous craggy mountain ranges, glistening with perpetual snow and ice, in the southern part of the South Island.*



**T**HE plumage of the Kea is a dull olive-green. Its cry as generally heard in the early morning has been aptly compared to the mewing of a cat; but it likewise utters a whistle, a chuckle, and a suppressed scream. On level ground the Kea's mode of locomotion consists of a hopping rather than a walking movement. It is also semi-nocturnal, exhibiting much activity after dusk and in the early dawn. When hunting for food in its wild mountain home, the Kea may be seen perched for a few moments on a jutting rock, then, descending to the ground to hunt for grubs and insects or to gather the ripening seeds from certain alpine plants, it disappears for a time and then mounts to the summit of another rock. The Kea usually builds its nest under a high cliff. The eggs are about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length by  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches in breadth, being pure white with a slightly glossy surface.



## Woodhen

*There are several kinds of Weka in the South Island, and all are similar in habits to the one usually called the South Island Weka or Woodhen.*

**T**HE SOUTH ISLAND WOODHEN is another example of a New Zealand bird which, although furnished with wings, is unable to fly. It does, however, use the wings when running. The eyes are wonderfully sharp, ever on the lookout for food—generally worms, grubs, insects, berries, mice, the eggs of ground nesting birds, young fallen birds, and even rats and young rabbits. The Woodhen early became one of the best companions of the bushman and explorer because of its lack of fear and its incurable inquisitiveness, which often causes it to fall victim to opossum traps. It is of great economic importance, not only as a destroyer of insect pests and vermin but also as a protector of the nests of other birds. The worst enemies of nesting birds are the black and the brown rat, and the Woodhen is the declared enemy of both. The nest is built on or near the ground in a variety of situations.



## Banded Rail

Like other members of its species, the Banded Rail is liable to considerable variation of plumage—the band differs in breadth and colouring.



**T**HE BANDED RAIL, which is extremely shy, rarely takes wing. When it does it flies low and straight, with legs trailing behind, but soon drops under cover again. This bird, which feeds on insects, seeds, and the succulent parts of various native grasses, is a nimble runner, and glides through the dense herbage with amazing facility. Reed-covered marshes and mangrove swamps in salt water inlets and estuaries, as well as fresh water swamps, are the resorts of the Banded Rail. The nest is made of grass or stems of rushes, and is placed on the ground under a tussock or in dense clumps of rushes often over water. A kind of bower over the nest is made by pulling the growing rushes together. The breeding season extends over several months, and four to six eggs are laid, pale pinkish, with scattered dark reddish brown to pale purplish grey blotches at the larger end.



## NEW ZEALAND BIRDS



### *Long-tailed Cuckoo*

*This bird, which annually visits New Zealand from regions nearer the equator, is perhaps less well known than its smaller relative, the Shining Cuckoo.*

**T**HE LONG-TAILED CUCKOO is not uncommon during the Summer months, but appears to remain in sparsely settled bush country. It is of retiring habits even in such districts, and restricts its harsh and rasping cry mainly to the first and last hours of daylight. This Cuckoo's appearance at once suggests the description "hawk-like," and it may be this resemblance to a common enemy that arouses the anger of small birds when it seeks safety in retreat with the flock of feathered furies in pursuit. The Cuckoo gains revenge in sneaking fashion by visiting unguarded nests to steal and devour eggs and sometimes even nestlings, and, as if in final settlement of its score, the Cuckoo may then leave its own egg to be cared for by one of the deluded victims. New Zealand is the only known nesting country of the Long-tailed Cuckoo, but in Winter the species is found in various islands of the South Pacific.



## Kingfisher

The Kingfisher, or Kotare, is held in such veneration in the Pacific Islands that it is commonly known as the Sacred Kingfisher (*Halcyon Sanctus*).



**T**HIS brightly coloured bird, first discovered at Dusky Sound during Cook's second voyage in 1770, is widely known in Pacific lands, the New Zealand variety being larger than most of its species. The Kingfisher is a bird of the open spaces; it frequents the sea coast, the banks of streams and lagoons, pasture lands, the fringe of the forest, and the haunts of men. Included in the bird's diet are small fruits, insects, lizards, fish, especially fresh-water fish, small birds, mice, and other vermin. A nest is prepared by burrowing a hole in a decayed tree or bank about one foot in length and slanting upwards, terminating in a spacious chamber where five or six eggs are laid about midsummer. The unmusical amorous cries of the mating birds and their harsh screech when they fiercely attack intruders make the Kingfishers noisy neighbours in the breeding season. After quitting the nest, the young family keep together for several weeks.



## NEW ZEALAND BIRDS



### *Pukeko*

*A large and beautiful bird of the swamps, which takes kindly to cultivated areas where it has an ill reputation as a marauder.*

**T**HE SWAMP HEN was first captured by Sir Joseph Banks in 1769 or 1770, and was described by early missionaries as "blue fowl" which rob the potato fields. The New Zealand variety, one of four sub-species dispersed over Pacific Lands, is a fearless bird frequently seen in swamps and fields by railway passengers and motorists. Vegetable material is the principal item of diet, but it welcomes insects, worms, lizards, young birds and eggs. The Pukeko usually builds, in late Spring, an untidy nest of raupo leaves a little above the level of the swamp. The male bird does most of the incubating, but the hen takes charge of the young birds when hatched. Mr. Guthrie Smith describes partnership nests of several hens with a single male in which up to 17 eggs belonging to five to seven hens are laid, each bird removing her young to a new nest or platform when hatched.

## Titoki

The lofty Alestryon is more familiarly known by the Maori name of "Titoki." It is a beautiful and useful tree, growing sometimes to a height of 60 feet, with a trunk of two or more feet in diameter. The Titoki is to be found in the North Island and as far South as Banks Peninsula. Its branches, leaves, and fruit are covered with a short brown down which gives the tree a rusty appearance. The small, deep crimson flowers, which appear about October and November, are arranged in panicles of from four to six inches long. The fruit, which presents a very attractive appearance, takes a year to ripen, and it can be seen on the trees at the same time as the flowers of the following year.



## Karaka

The Karaka of the Maoris is sometimes known as New Zealand Laurel. This handsome tree, with its bold glossy foliage and its brilliant berries, is abundant near the coast on the North Island and along the Wanganui River. The flowers, which are very small, greenish-white, and scentless, appear in October. The Karaka is one of the few trees cultivated by the Maoris for food, the kernels being one of their staple articles of diet. In its raw state, however, this fruit is extremely poisonous. The natives used to steam or bake the fruit for several hours, after which the kernels were removed and spread in the sun to dry before being stored for future use. The Maoris adorned their heads with chaplets of Karaka leaves when visiting the graves of their dead.



## Interesting Facts

### ABOUT NEW ZEALAND BIRDS AND FLOWERS

In the Kiwi, New Zealand's flightless bird, we find an extraordinary example of Nature's method of adapting a species to a special environment. As the Kiwi originally had no ground enemies to combat, it is believed that it gradually lost the power of flight, its wings disappearing with the passage of time until only the rudiments of them remain in the bird's body. The extinct Moa, the largest known bird, possessed the same characteristics.

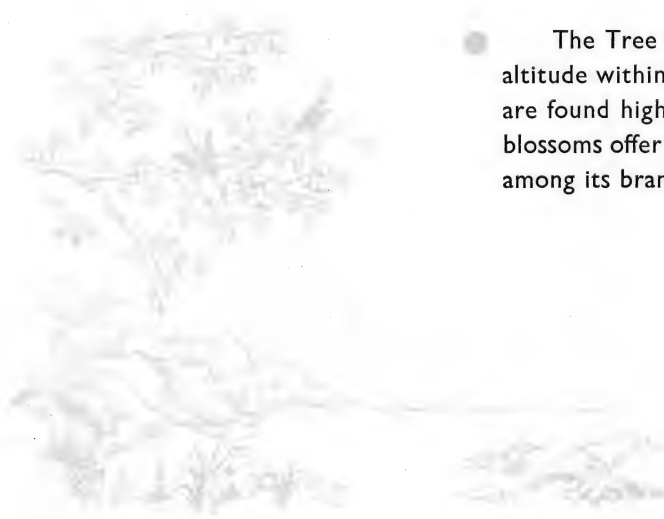
The Kea, or Mountain Parrot, is said to have developed a liking for mutton fat through eating scraps from sheepskins hung on fences to dry. It is considered by some observers that this handsome bird attacks the live sheep, pecking a hole through the skin to get at the fat on the animal's loins. Through this it has earned an unenviable reputation among some stationholders, though many believe the assertion to be unfounded.

The Woodhen or Weka is probably one of the most inquisitive birds in existence, and usually causes no end of amusement to those who happen to spend a few days near its favourite haunts. It has been known to steal all manner of small articles from the tents of campers—spoons, forks, or any other bright, portable object that happens to take its fancy. The bird shows little fear of mankind, and does not hesitate to attack rats or weasels should they venture into its domains.

The Long-tailed Cuckoo, true to its species, lays its eggs in the nests of unfortunate birds, usually the diminutive ones such as the wrens or tomtits. It arrives in New Zealand regularly each year after its long flight of some thousands of miles across the ocean from somewhere in the vicinity of the Fijian group.

The Rata tree is one of the giants of the New Zealand forest, its great twisted trunk towering high above the lesser varieties. Commencing as a vine, it twines itself tightly about some other luckless tree which it gradually crushes out of existence. It may be seen in all stages of growth in most forested areas of the country and is immensely strong.

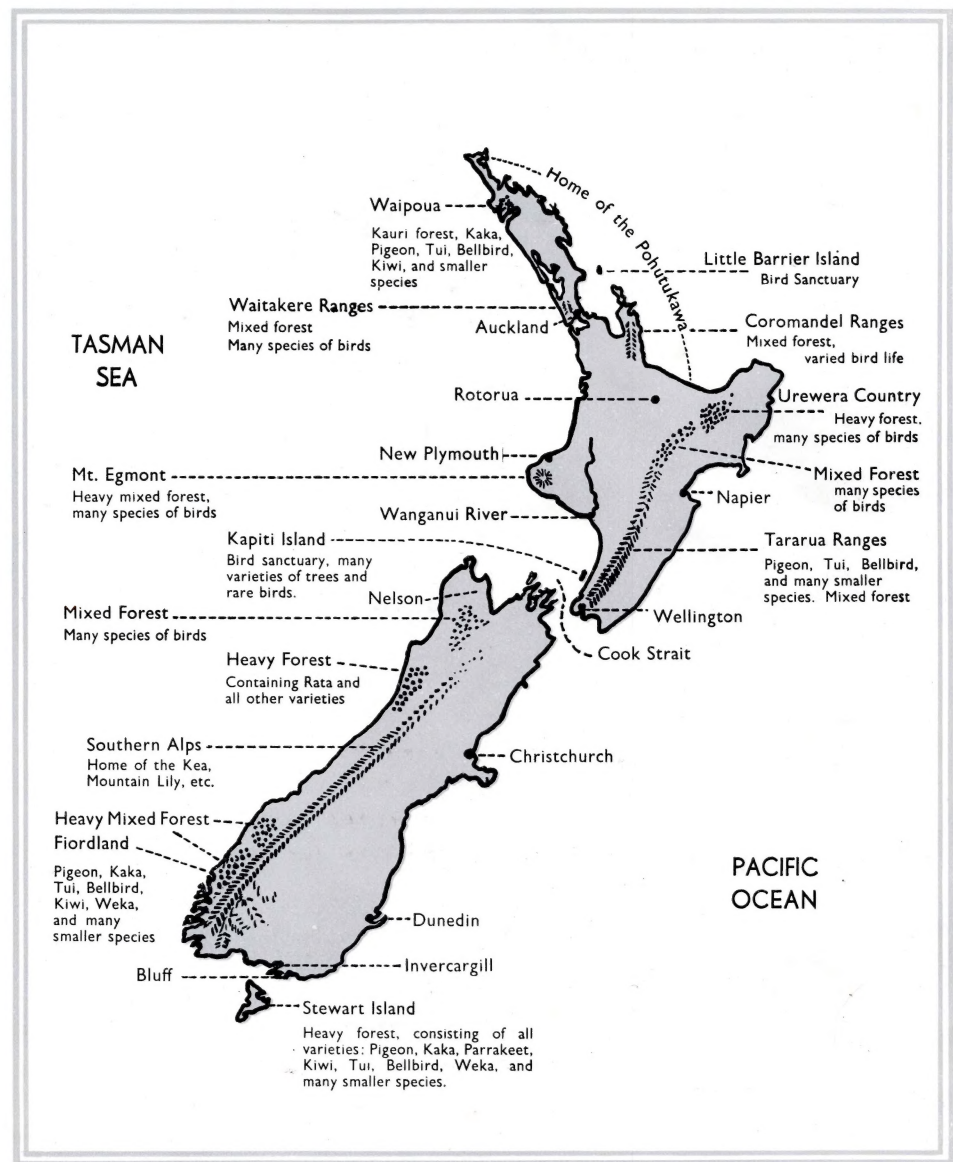
The Tree Fuchsia is remarkable in that it appears to flourish at almost any altitude within the timberline. It grows freely on the plains, and large areas of it are found high on the slopes of Mt. Egmont and on other peaks. The honeyed blossoms offer a great attraction to Tuis and Bellbirds which will usually be found among its branches when the tree is in flower.





## New Zealand

*A description of the habitat of birds and the districts where flowers grow.*



**T**HE BIRDS and FLOWERS OF NEW ZEALAND are widely distributed as a glance at the above map, upon which the main forest areas are marked, will show. Some birds such as the Kea and certain species of Kiwi and Parrakeet, belong only to the South Island, but the majority roam over all parts of the country where food and shelter are available. Similarly, certain alpine flowers are restricted to areas in either the South or the North Island, the Mountain Lily being found in profusion in the Southern Alps. However, the person in search of the better known varieties will not find it very difficult to discover them at the correct season of the year. His efforts will be amply repaid by the results.



## OFFICES OF GOVERNMENT TOURIST DEPARTMENT IN NEW ZEALAND

The Department has Information and Booking Bureaux in all the main towns in New Zealand.  
Head Office: D.I.C. Building, Wellington, New Zealand.

### OFFICES AND HONORARY AGENCIES OVERSEAS

#### GREAT BRITAIN and EUROPE—

The High Commissioner for New Zealand, 415 The Strand, London, W.C.2.

N.Z. Trade and Tourist Commissioner, Brussels.

#### CANADA and UNITED STATES—

N.Z. Trade and Tourist Commissioner, Canada Permanent Building, 320 Bay Street, Toronto, 2.

N.Z. Tourist and Publicity Representative, Hollingsworth Buildings, 606 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, California.

#### SOUTH AFRICA—

Mr. H. J. Constable, P.O. Box 1909, Johannesburg.

Mr. H. Middlebrook, 3 Natal Bank Chambers (Box 1822), Durban.

#### INDIA—

New Zealand Insurance Co., Calcutta, Rangoon, Bombay.

#### CEYLON—

Mr. A. R. Hughes, Hong Kong Bank Buildings (P.O. Box 328), Colombo.

#### CHINA—

Mr. C. G. Davis, c/o Messrs. Hatch Carter & Co., 131 Devonport Road, Tientsin, North China.

Mr. S. Hutchison, P.O. Box 355, Shanghai.

Mr. S. T. Williamson, P. & O. Buildings, Hong Kong.

#### SINGAPORE—

American Express Company.

#### FIJI—

Messrs. Brown and Joske, Ltd., Suva.

#### AUSTRALIA—

N.Z. Tourist and Trade Commissioner, corner Martin Place and Pitt Street, Sydney.

N.Z. Government Offices, corner Collins and Elizabeth Streets, Melbourne.

Dewar and Jones, King's House, Queen Street, Brisbane.

South Australia Intelligence and Tourist Bureau, Adelaide.

West Australia Government Tourist Bureau, Perth.

### TRAVEL FIRM AGENCIES AND BOOKING OFFICES

#### AMERICA—

American Express Company. (All offices.)

Union Steam Ship Company of New Zealand. (All offices.)

Canadian Pacific Railways. (All offices.)

Canadian National Railways. (All offices.)

Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son Wagon-Lits Ltd. (All offices.)

Messrs. Raymond and Whitcomb. (All offices.)

Matson Line (Oceanic Steamship Company). (All offices.)

#### EUROPE—

Messrs. Thos. Cook and Sons. (All offices.)

Pickford's Travel Service, 206 High Holborn, London.

Messrs. Hickie, Borman, Grant, and Company, 25 Cockspur Street, London, S.W.1.

Messrs. T. Hamer and Company, Ltd., Walter House, 418-422 The Strand, London.

#### ASIA—

Netherland-India Tourist Office, Batavia C. and Sourabaya.

#### AFRICA—

Messrs. Parry, Leon, and Heyhoe, 320 Smith Street, Durban.

### EXCELLENT SHIPPING SERVICES

New Zealand is fortunate in the modern shipping services which link the Dominion with all parts of the world. Up-to-date passenger liners, remarkably well equipped for the comfort and safety of passengers, make travel easy and pleasant to these islands from countries in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

**FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.**—The trip from England across the Atlantic Ocean, America (Canada or U.S.A.) and the Pacific Ocean takes approximately 30 days, and the direct voyage through the Panama Canal about 36 days. Other routes are via Suez or the Cape of Good Hope to Australia, where passengers transfer to a New Zealand-bound ship.

**FROM AUSTRALIA**—The Service (2½ to 4 days) is weekly from Sydney to Wellington or Auckland. A further Trans-Pacific Service is maintained at three-weekly intervals from San Francisco via Honolulu, Samoa and Fiji to Auckland, N.Z.

**FROM CANADA and U.S.A.**—The Trans-Pacific Service (18 days' voyage) is fortnightly—alternately from Vancouver via Honolulu and Suva (Fiji) to Auckland, and from San Francisco via Papeete (Tahiti) and Rarotonga to Wellington.

**FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.**—Tourists to the Dominion from South Africa, India, and the East are served by liners which connect with the Australia-New Zealand vessels.

### GOVERNMENT TOURIST DEPARTMENT'S FREE ADVICE

The principal duty of the Government Tourist Department's officers is to give all possible assistance to travellers. With a thorough knowledge of local conditions they plan itineraries suitable for all tourists, and make reservations for trains, steamers, motors, and hotel accommodation. This service and other helpfulness in smoothing the way for visitors are free of charge. Practically the Tourist Department acts as a Government-guaranteed guide for tourists. Officers of the Department meet all incoming passenger vessels.

